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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5, and 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0004609 to Walker et al. (hereinafter "Walker") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,601,171 to Carter et al. (hereinafter "Carter"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5, and 69 are patentable over Walker in view of Carter.

Walker discloses:

A method and a system for a distributed electronic tournament system in which many remotely located players participate in a tournament through input/output devices connected to a central controller which manages the tournament. The method includes the steps of (a) uniquely identifying a player communicating with the central controller via an associated input/output device; (b) responding to payment of an entry fee by the player for allowing the player to participate in a tournament occurring within a fixed time window via an associated input/output device; (c) accessing a database to store in the database player information that is generated as the player participates in the tournament, such information being available for use in a subsequent tournament, which is administered by said controller and in which the player participates; and (d) awarding the player a prize for achieving a pre-established performance level in the tournament. In another preferred embodiment, the method further includes the steps of determining whether the player has been qualified to advance to a subsequent game session, in which at least one player is eliminated from the previous game session; and permitting each player qualified to a subsequent game session to participate in that game session. The system includes software and hardware to implement the method steps. (Walker Abstract).

Additionally, Walker states "It provides numerous advantages over existing tournament systems; such as simplifying the collection of entry fees and the payment of prizes, as well as allowing for rating and handicap systems." (Page 2, paragraph 0021).

Carter discloses:

Methods, signals, devices, and systems are provided for delegating rights in a distributed computer system from a principal to one or more deputies. The deputies have identities separate from the principal. This allows the deputies to persist after the principal logs off the system, and permits deputization across boundaries imposed by namespaces and particular network protocols. A deputy may also delegate rights to additional deputies. Deputization is accomplished using certificates, credentials, public and private keys, process creation, and other tools and techniques. (Carter Abstract).

Claim 1 of the present application, as amended, recites:

A method comprising:
 initiating an online gaming activity from a gaming system with multiple users; and
 authenticating the multiple users, the gaming system, a game title, and an online service together in a single request/reply exchange with an authentication entity.

Thus, claim 1 recites "authenticating the multiple users, the gaming system, a game title, and an online service together in a single request/reply" Applicant respectfully submits that the Walker reference fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, the gaming system, the game title, and an online service in a single request, as recited in claim 1. The current Office Action admits that "Walker does not expressly disclose authenticating the multiple users together

in a single request/reply exchange.” (Office Action, Page 3). Applicant respectfully submits that Walker also fails to disclose or suggest authenticating a gaming system, a game title, and an online service in the same request/reply exchange.

The Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker. Although Carter discusses delegating rights in a distributed computer system, Carter fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, the gaming system, the game title, and an online service in a single request, as recited in claim 1. The Carter reference fails to make any reference to a gaming system or a game title.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that neither Walker nor Carter, alone or in combination, disclose the elements of claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Walker in view of Carter. Given that claim 5 depends from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is likewise allowable over Walker in view of Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 69 of the present application, as amended, recites language similar to that discussed above with respect to claim 1. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 69 is patentable over Walker in view of Carter.

Claims 2-4, 6-44, 59-68, and 70-74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker and further in view of Stallings (Cryptography and Network Security: Principles and Practice, Second Edition) and Carter. Claims 38, 43, 44, and 70 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant

respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 6-37, 39-42, 59-68, and 71-74 are patentable over Walker in view of Stallings.

Stallings discloses the operation of an example Kerberos environment. However, the Stallings reference does not remedy the deficiencies of Walker noted above with respect to claim 1. As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, the gaming system, the game title and the online service in a single request/reply exchange, as recited in claim 1. Although Stallings discusses authentication, the Stallings reference fails to disclose authenticating multiple users, the gaming system, the game title, and the online service in a single request/reply exchange. Further, Stallings makes no suggestion to authenticate multiple users, the gaming system, the game title, and the online service in a single request/reply exchange. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, the gaming system, the game title, and the online service in the manner recited in claim 1.

As discussed above with reference to claim 1, Carter fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker. Further, Carter fails to remedy the deficiencies of Stallings. Thus, the combination of Walker, Stallings, and Carter fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, the gaming system, the game title, and the online service in the manner recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims

are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 6 of the present application recites:

A method comprising:

- submitting a single request from a game console to a ticket issuing entity, the request containing a game console identity, multiple user identities, and an identity of an online service;

- returning a ticket from the ticket issuing entity to the game console, the ticket containing the game console identity and the multiple user identities encrypted with a key associated with the online service;

- passing the ticket from the game console to the online service; and

- decrypting the ticket at the online service, wherein after the decrypting the authenticity of the multiple users contained in the ticket is trusted.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, a game console, and an online service. Although Stallings discusses authentication, the Stallings reference fails to disclose or suggest submitting a single request from a game console to a ticket issuing entity in which the request identifies multiple user identities, a game console, and an online service. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, the game console, and the online service in the manner recited in claim 6. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 7-15 depend from claim 6, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims

are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 16 of the present application recites:

A method comprising:

creating, at a game console, multiple validated user identities (U_1, H_1) , (U_2, H_2) , ..., (U_U, H_U) composed of user identities U_1, U_2, \dots, U_U and associated values H_1, H_2, \dots, H_U derived from the user's key;

forming, at the game console, a request containing an identity string that includes a game console identity X , a game title identity G , the multiple validated user identities, and an identity A of an online service, as follows:

$$\text{Request} = [X, G, A, (U_1, H_1), \dots, (U_U, H_U)];$$

submitting the request from the game console to a ticket issuing entity;

creating, at the ticket issuing entity, a ticket containing the identity string and a session key K_{XA} encrypted with a key K_A associated with the online service, as follows:

$$\text{Ticket} = E_{K_A}[K_{XA}, X, G, A, U_1, U_2, U_3, U_4];$$

sending the ticket along with the session key K_{XA} from the ticket issuing entity to the game console;

passing the ticket from the game console to the online service along with data encrypted using the session key K_{XA} ; and

verifying the ticket at the online service by decrypting the ticket using the online service key K_A , extracting the session key K_{XA} from the decrypted ticket, and decrypting the data from the game console using the session key K_{XA} .

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users, a game console, and an online service, as recited in claim 16. Further, Walker fails to disclose or suggest "forming, at the game console, a request

containing an identity string that includes ... a game title identity G ...”, as recited in claim 16. Although Stallings discusses authentication, the Stallings reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker. Thus, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest forming a request in the manner recited in claim 16. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 17-25 depend from claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 26 of the present application, as amended, recites:

A method for operating a game console, comprising:
submitting a request to a ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game title, and an identity of an online service;
and
receiving a single ticket from the ticket issuing entity that can be used to authenticate the multiple user identities and the game title to the online service.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “submitting a request to a ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game title, and an identity of an online service”, as recited in claim 26. Further, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “receiving a single ticket from the ticket issuing entity that can be used to authenticate the multiple user identities and the game title”, as recited in claim 26. As discussed above, the Stallings reference fails to disclose or

suggest “submitting a request to a ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game title, and an identity of an online service” and “receiving a single ticket from the ticket issuing entity that can be used to authenticate the multiple user identities and the game title”, as recited in claim 26. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest the method of operation recited in claim 26. Furthermore, as discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 27-31 depend from claim 26, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 32 of the present application recites:

A method for operating a game console, comprising:
submitting a request to a ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities and an identity of the game console; and
receiving a single ticket from the ticket issuing entity that can be used to authenticate the multiple user identities and the game console.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “submitting a request to a ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities and an identity of the game console” as recited in claim 32. Further, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “receiving a single ticket from the ticket issuing entity that can be used to authenticate the multiple user identities and the game console”, as recited in claim 32. Although Stallings discusses authentication, the Stallings reference also fails to disclose or suggest “submitting a request to a ticket issuing entity, the request

containing multiple user identities and an identity of the game console” and “receiving a single ticket from the ticket issuing entity that can be used to authenticate the multiple user identities and the game console”, as recited in claim 32. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest the elements recited in claim 32. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 33-36 depend from claim 32, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 37 of the present application recites:

A method comprising:

receiving a request from a game console, the request containing multiple user identities of multiple users who are playing at the game console, a game console identity, a game title identity, and an identity of a third party;

generating a single ticket to be used to authenticate the multiple user identities, the game console identity, and the game title identity to the third party; and

returning the ticket to the game console.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “receiving a request from a game console, the request containing multiple user identities of multiple users who are playing at the game console, a game console identity, a game title identity, and an identity of a third party” as recited in claim 37. Further, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “generating a single ticket to be used to authenticate the

multiple user identities, the game console identity, and the game title identity”, as recited in claim 37. Although Stallings discusses authentication, the Stallings reference also fails to disclose or suggest “receiving a request from a game console, the request containing multiple user identities of multiple users who are playing at the game console, a game console identity, a game title identity, and an identity of a third party” and “generating a single ticket to be used to authenticate the multiple user identities, the game console identity, and the game title identity”, as recited in claim 37. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest the method of claim 37. Further, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 37 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 39-42 depend from claim 37, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 59 of the present application recites:

A computer-readable medium for a game console comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct the game console to:

create multiple validated user identities $(U_1, H_1), (U_2, H_2), \dots, (U_U, H_U)$ composed of the multiple user identities U_1, U_2, \dots, U_U and associated values H_1, H_2, \dots, H_U derived from the user's key;

form a request containing a game console identity X , a game title identity G , the multiple user identities, and an identity A of an online service, as follows:

Request = $[X, G, A, (U_1, H_1), \dots, (U_U, H_U)]$; and

submit the request to a ticket issuing entity over a network.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest a game console that forms “a request containing a game console identity X, a game title identity G, the multiple user identities, and an identity A of an online service” as recited in claim 59. Although the Stallings reference discusses authentication, Stallings fails to disclose or suggest a game console that forms “a request containing a game console identity X, a game title identity G, the multiple user identities, and an identity A of an online service”, as recited in claim 59. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest the cited portion of claim 59. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 59 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 60-63 depend from claim 59, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 64 of the present application recites:

A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform operations comprising:

receive a request from a game console, the request containing an identity string that includes a game console identity X, a game title identity G, multiple user identities (U_1, H_1), ..., (U_U, H_U), and an identity A of an online service, as follows:

Request = [X, G, A, (U_1, H_1), ..., (U_U, H_U)]; and

generate a ticket containing the identity string and a session key K_{XA} together encrypted with a key K_A associated with the online service, as follows:

$\text{TicketA} = E_{K_A}[K_{X_A}, X, G, A, U_1, U_2, \dots, U_U];$ and

return the ticket to the game console.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “receive a request from a game console, the request containing an identity string that includes a game console identity X, a game title identity G, multiple user identities $(U_1, H_1), \dots, (U_U, H_U)$, and an identity A of an online service”, as recited in claim 64. Further, the Stallings reference fails to disclose or suggest “receive a request from a game console, the request containing an identity string that includes a game console identity X, a game title identity G, multiple user identities $(U_1, H_1), \dots, (U_U, H_U)$, and an identity A of an online service”, as recited in claim 64. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 64. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 64 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claims 65-68 depend from claim 64, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 69 of the present application, as amended, recites:

A game console, comprising:
a memory; and
a processor coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to obtain authentication of multiple users of the game console together in a single request/reply exchange with an authentication entity, wherein the single

request/reply exchange identifies the multiple users, the game console, a game title, and an online service.

As discussed above, Applicant submits that claim 69 is patentable over Walker in view of Carter. Applicant further submits that Stallings fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Carter.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 69 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter. Given that claim 71 depends from claim 69, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 71 is likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 72 of the present application, as amended, recites:

A system, comprising:
a ticketing issuing entity;
a game console configured to submit a request to the ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game console identity, a game title identity, and an identity of an online service; and
the ticket issuing entity being configured to generate a single ticket that can be used by the game console to authenticate the multiple user identities, the game console identity, and the game title identity to the online service.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest "a game console configured to submit a request to the ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game console identity, a game title identity, and an identity of an online service", as recited in claim 72. Although Stallings discusses authentication, the Stallings reference also fails to disclose or suggest "a game console configured to submit a request to the ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game console identity, a game title identity,

and an identity of an online service”, as recited in claim 72. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest the system of claim 72. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 72 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter.

Claim 73 of the present application, as amended, recites:

A system, comprising:
a ticketing issuing entity;
a game console configured to submit a request to the ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game console identity, and a game title identity; and
the ticket issuing entity being configured to generate a single ticket that can be used by the game console to authenticate the multiple user identities, the game console identity, and the game title identity to a third party.

As discussed above, Walker fails to disclose or suggest “a game console configured to submit a request to the ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game console identity, and a game title identity” as recited in claim 73. Although Stallings discusses authentication, the Stallings reference also fails to disclose or suggest “a game console configured to submit a request to the ticket issuing entity, the request containing multiple user identities, a game console identity, and a game title identity”, as recited in claim 73. Additionally, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest the system of claim 73. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings. Accordingly, for at least these reasons,

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 73 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Carter.

Claims 45-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Rackman (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,651) and Stallings and Carter. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 45-58 are patentable over Walker in view of Rackman and Stallings and Carter.

The Rackman reference discloses a system for limiting the number of different video game machines on which a cartridge may be played so as to effectively inhibit the conduct of a cartridge rental business. (See Rackman Abstract). However, Rackman fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users in a single request/reply exchange as discussed below.

Claim 45 of the present application, as amended, recites:

A method for manufacturing a game console, comprising:
constructing a game console with associated authentication information; and
storing the authentication information in a database to be used for authenticating the game console, a game title executing on the game console, and multiple users of the game console after the game console is released from manufacturing.

As discussed above, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users of a game console as well as the game console and a game title. The Rackman reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings. Accordingly, the combination of Walker, Stallings and Rackman fails to disclose or suggest "storing the authentication information in a

database to be used for authenticating the game console, a game title executing on the game console, and multiple users of the game console after the game console is released from manufacturing”, as recited in claim 45. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker, Stallings, and Rackman.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 45 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Rackman and Carter. Given that claims 46-51 depend from claim 45, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Rackman and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 52 of the present application recites:

A method for validating an authenticity of a game console and multiple users of the game console, comprising:

receiving, from the game console, authentication information that is associated with the game console at a time of manufacturing; and

evaluating the authentication information to determine whether the game console is valid.

As discussed above, the combination of Walker and Stallings fails to disclose or suggest authenticating multiple users and the identity of a game console. The Rackman reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker and Stallings. As such, the combination of Walker, Stallings and Rackman fails to disclose or suggest validating an authenticity of a game console and multiple users of the game console, as recited in claim 52. As discussed above, the Carter reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Walker, Stallings and Rackman.

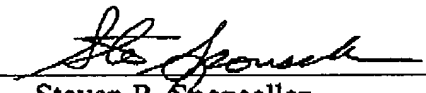
Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 52 is patentable over Walker in view of Stallings and Rackman and Carter. Given that claims 53-58 depend from claim 52, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Walker in view of Stallings and Rackman and Carter for at least the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Claims 1-37, 39-42, 45-69 and 71-73 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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